

**Abstract**

A method of fixing vertebrae of a patient together at a surgical site includes the following steps:  
inserting a first cannula (10) into the body (130) of  
5 the patient; moving a first fastener (624) through the  
cannula (10) and securing the first fastener (624) to a  
first vertebrae (601); moving a second fastener (624)  
through the cannula (10) and securing the second  
fastener (624) to a second vertebrae (602); moving a  
10 first fixation element (650) through the cannula (10);  
and fixing the first fixation element (650) to the  
first and second fasteners (624).